



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Jeremy V. Criss
Director

Agricultural Advisory Committee Update Report for October 2017

1. Update on the reclassifications of OAG staff- The following reclassifications are complete- **John Zawitoski, District Manager MIII**, Karen Walker, OSC, Melissa Steed, PAA, Jackie Arnold, AA, III. The following reclassifications are still Pending-Farmland Preservation Administrator-Senior BDS, Cathy Yingling, AA I, James Harne and Shelly Ingram Resource Conservationist I, II, III, and Jeremy Criss, Director MII.
2. The ZTA 17-06 (formerly ZTA 16-02) Doug Lechliden Testified on behalf of the AAC during the September 19, 2017 public hearing. There are three amendments that are proposed. The PHED Committee is scheduled for November 20, 2017.
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/zta/2017/ZTA%2017-06.pdf>
3. County Council Bill 23-17 Animal Control-Performance Animal-Violations.
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2017/Packets/20170718_6.pdf

The agricultural community met on October 4, 2017 with representatives from the Humane Society of the United States. The meeting was productive as it provided an opportunity for the agricultural community to educate the HSUS folks regarding our concerns. However, the meeting also resulted in a challenging discussion on the Bill 23-17 including the areas where we agree to disagree on the merits of the bill and the proposed language. The State of Virginia has proposed similar legislation that can be very helpful to Montgomery County in proposing language that protects activities and events that are conducted on a farm, a fair, or at a festival.

4. The OAG responded to the County Department of General Services to develop a plan to visit the Site 2 property in White Oak (Former WSSC Sludge Composting Facility). The OAG asked for pictures of the facility, buildings and equipment to assist the agricultural community on items to be salvaged. Stay Tuned!



5. County DOT installing guard rails on County Roads and OAG has asked for a list and map of the projects along rural and rustic roads. The list and map of DOT projects will be shared with the agricultural community so they can be better informed. Stay Tuned!
6. Introduction of Bill 28-17- County Minimum Wage-Amount-Annual Adjustment. Public Hearing is scheduled for September 26, 2017 at 7:00 pm. *Please see the attached letter from the AAC to the County Council in opposition to increasing the County Minimum Wage.*
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2017/Packets/20170725_5C.pdf
7. Follow up regarding the request from representatives of WSSC, DC Water, and Blue Drop regarding the marketing of Bloom-Class A soil amendment is an exceptional quality bio solids-based soil amendment. Blue Drop is marketing it to farms, nurseries, gardens, landscapers, and soil blenders in MD and DC now and are interested in learning more about how to reach those markets. The OAG and MSCD have requested a site visit of Blue Plains to see the process for making Bloom. Peter Driscoll-Dog Wood Hill Tree Farm and Ruppert Nursery is using Bloom. Stay Tuned!
8. Follow up to the MDA Secretary Joe Bartenfelder visiting Montgomery County as part of the fall legislative farm tour day on Monday October 16, 2017. The secretary and members from the County Delegation and the County Council will visit Waters Orchard, Sunny Ridge Farm and Waredaca Brewing Company.
9. Next Meeting of the AAC-November 21, 2017 at the Germantown Library Room A-**19840 Century Blvd, Germantown, MD 20874**

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Montgomery Soil Cons Bd of Supervisors-October 16, 2017 @ 9:00 am-New date and relocated due to CEWA.

MDA Fall Legislative Farm Tour Day in Montgomery County-Monday October 16, 2017

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-October 17, 2017 @ 7:00 pm

Montgomery Co. Farm Bureau Dinner Banquet -November 7, 2017 @7:00pm

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-November 14, 2017 @ 7:00pm

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-November 10, 2017@9:00 am

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-November 21, 2017 @ 7:00 pm

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